

### AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows. The following listing replaces all prior versions of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for specifically determining exposure of a subject to endotoxin comprising the steps of determining the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein in a sample of body fluid from the subject and correlating the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein with a standard indicative of the exposure to endotoxin, wherein LBP concentration above the standard is presumptively diagnostic of exposure of the subject to endotoxin, while a concentration below the standard is not.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a blood sample.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a plasma or serum sample.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein is determined by means of an immunoassay.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is pregnant.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acute graft versus host disease.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has type 1 diabetes.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has aplastic anemia.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has Crohn's Disease.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has psoriasis.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has rheumatoid arthritis.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has scleroderma.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has systemic lupus erythematosus.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).